In the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for cross-trading commodities and the like among a plurality of exchanges comprising:

providing a computer;

establishing a communications link between the computer and the Internet;

providing a database, accessible by the computer, containing a plurality of user files wherein each of the plurality of user files corresponds to a specified user of the system and further containing levels of permission to access and/or trade corresponding to a plurality of exchanges to which the specified user may access;

providing a database, accessible by the computer, containing a plurality of open offers and bids wherein each of the plurality of open offers and bids contains information corresponding to open bids or offers for commodities and the open offers and bids are organized according to the commodities to which they correspond;

providing at least one computer site for transacting specified commodities executing on the computer accessible by selected users having proper levels of permission to access and/or trade for each exchange; and

presenting open offers and bids from more than one exchange transmitted from the computer to a user of the system over the communications link, querying the user database to retrieve levels of permission to access and/or trade from a user file corresponding to the user, retrieving open offers and bids from the indication database corresponding to the user, retrieving open offers and bids from the indication database corresponding to the predetermined commodities within the exchanges to which the user has been determined to have access, generating a presentation of the retrieved open

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offers and bids having commodities from more than one exchange displayed thereon, and transmitting the presentation to the user over the communications link.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying said specified commodities associated with an exchange exclusively by users having levels of permission to access and/or trade corresponding to the exchange.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising granting commodity-sharing privileges between at least two exchanges permitting at least one of the exchanges access to at least one commodity associated with the exchanges.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising in each of said plurality of user files corresponding a plurality of transaction parameters to one or more open offers and bids associated with said user file, said transaction parameters governing the presentation and acceptance of open offers and bids associated therewith; and the method further comprising querying user files in said user database corresponding to each of said retrieved open offers and bids to determine transaction parameters associated with each of said retrieved open offers and bids, and generating said presentation of said retrieved open offers and bids in accordance with said determined transaction parameters.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising said transaction parameters enabling a submitter of an open offer or bid to remain anonymous to specific users of the system that have been predetermined by the submitter.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising said transaction parameters enabling a submitter of an open offer or bid to reveal contact information to specific users of the system that have been predetermined by the submitter.

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7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising said transaction parameters permitting a submitter of an open offer or bid to grant specific users preferred status over other users of the system with respect to actions concerning open offers and bids submitted by the submitter.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: requesting to register submitted by the user to said computer over said communications link; transmitting a registration form to the user over said communications link in response to said request, submitting a completed registration form by the user to said computer over said communications link; and receiving said completed registration form, creating a user file based on said completed registration form, and storing said user file in said user database.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising the user determining said transaction parameters and submitting to the computer within said completed registration form and further comprising retrieving transaction parameters submitted within said completed registration form and storing said transaction parameters in said user file corresponding to the user.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: the user submitting a completed open offer or bid submission form to said computer over said communications link; and transmitting an open offer or bid submission form to the user over said communications link, receiving said completed open offer or bid submission form submitted by the user, creating a new open offer or bid based on said completed open offer or bid submission form, associating said new open offer or bid with a user file corresponding to said user, and storing said new open offer or bid in said indication database.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising the user determining said transaction parameters and submitted to the computer by the user within said completed

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indication submission form; and further comprising retrieving transaction parameters submitted within said completed indication submission form and storing said transaction parameters in a user file corresponding to the user.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising operating and maintaining an interactive website to facilitate interaction between the user and said computer.

13. – 43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) A system for cross-trading commodities and the like among a plurality of exchanges comprising:

a computer;

a communications link between the computer and the Internet;

a database, accessible by the computer, containing a plurality of user files wherein each of the plurality of user files corresponds to a specified user of the system and further containing levels of permission to access and/or trade corresponding to a plurality of exchanges to which the specified user may access;

at least one computer site for transacting specified commodities executing on the computer accessible by selected users having proper levels of permission to access and/or trade for each exchange;

a database, accessible by the computer, containing a plurality of open offers and bids wherein each of the plurality of open offers and bids contains information corresponding to open bids or offers for commodities and the open offers and bids are organized according to the commodities to which they correspond; and

means executing on the computer for querying the user database to retrieve levels of permission to access and/or trade from a user file corresponding to the user; retrieving open offers

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and bids form more than one exchange from the indication database corresponding to predetermined commodities within the exchanges to which the user has been determined to have access, generating a presentation of the retrieved open offers and bids having commodities from more than one exchange displayed thereon, transmitting the presentation to the user over the communications link, and displaying the presentation of the retrieved open offers and bids corresponding to the commodities within the exchanges to which the user has been determined to have access.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44 wherein the specified commodities associated with an exchange are viewed exclusively by users having levels of permission to access and/or trade corresponding to the exchange.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45 further comprising commodity-sharing privileges granted between at least two exchanges permitting at least one of the exchanges access to at least one commodity associated with the exchanges.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44 wherein each of the plurality of user files further contains a plurality of transaction parameters corresponding to one or more open offers and bids associated with the user file, the transaction parameters governing the presentation and acceptance of open offers and bids associated therewith and the system further comprising means executing on the computer for querying user files in the user database corresponding to each of the retrieved open offers and bids to determine transaction parameters associated with each of the retrieved open offers and bids, and generating the presentation of the retrieved open offers and bids in accordance with the determined transaction parameters.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein the transaction parameters enable a submitter of an open offer or bid to remain anonymous to specific users of the system that have been predetermined by the submitter.

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49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44 wherein the transaction parameters enable a submitter of an open offer or bid to reveal contact information to specific users of the system that have been predetermined by the submitter.

50. – 55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further permitting users to post and view bids and offers and negotiate and consummate transactions on commodities from one of more exchanges on a display.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44 further comprising a display for users that permits users to post and view bids and offers and negotiate and consummate transactions on commodities from one of more exchanges.

58. (Previously Presented) A method for cross-trading commodities and the like among a plurality of exchanges comprising:

providing a computer;

establishing a communications link between the computer and the Internet;

providing a database, accessible by eh computer, containing a plurality of user files wherein each of the plurality of user files corresponds to a specified user of the system and further containing levels of permission to access and/or trade corresponding to a plurality of exchanges to which the specified user may access;

providing a database, accessible by the computer, containing a plurality of open offers and bids wherein each of the plurality of pen offers and bids contains information corresponding to open bids or offers for commodities and the open offers and bids are organized according to the commodities to which they correspond;

providing at least one computer site for transacting specified commodities executing on the computer accessible by selected users having proper levels of permission to access and/or trade for each exchange; and

presenting open offers and bids from more than one exchange transmitted from the computer to a user of the system over the communications link, querying the user database to retrieve levels of permission to access and/or trade from a user file corresponding to the user, retrieving open offers and bids for the indication database corresponding to the predetermined commodities within the exchanges to which the user has been determined to have access, generating a presentation of the retrieved open offers and bids having commodities from more than one exchange displayed thereon, and transmitting the presentation to the user over the communication link.

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